

The Spark Gap

MARC

Volume 17

ISSUE 6

FIELD DAY 2000

Amateur Radio Field Days

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will ask the Town of Prince's Lakes to proclaim the week of June 19 through 25, 2000 as Amateur Radio Week

Licensed amateur radio operators demonstrate their value as public servants by donating their time to provide radio communications during emergency situations. These operators are on alert for any emergency, local or worldwide, and practice their communications skills during the American Radio Relay League Field Day exercise

This year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place at the Town Hall on June 24 and 25, 2000 beginning Saturday at 12:00 p.m. All are invited to come and participate in this important event. Come in and talk to the World..

. From the Prince's Lakes Newsletter

Club meeting Saturday 17th. 8:00 am

At this month's meeting we will attempt to plan our Field Day activities, assign setup tasks and establish where the equipment is coming from, who will furnish it.

Saturday morning we will need people to erect antennas, run feedlines, run power lines, install the grounding system and install the operating positions. We will

also attempt to schedule operators for the entire event.

J,R KB9HSE and I Al, WA9ZET intend to do the cooking.

Things we will need :

1. screwdrivers
2. wire cutters
3. wire strippers
4. nut drivers
5. socket set
6. slip joint pliers.
- 7 pocket knife
8. hammers
- 9 soldering irons
- 10 tape
- 11 solder
- 12 Short lengths of coax
- 13 barrel connectors
- 14 meters

Equipment we will need

- 1 Computer for logging
2. logging program
3. 80m station
- 4 40m station
- 4 an all band station
- 6 2m talk in station
- 7 spare radios
8. a Packer station (would be nice)

Bring also any Misc. items you may have and think will be needed.

Note:

If a logging program is not available we can use a database program instead dupe checking will be slow though.

WA9ZET

Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act

Needs a boost from ARRL members
Congress has begun to slow drift into the summer doldrums, which will be followed by the inevitable rush toward October adjournment. This is the time for the ARRL members to write their Senators asking them to cosponsor the new Senate version of the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, S.2183. Both this bill and the House companion bill would require the FCC to provide equivalent spectrum should it ever reallocate Amateur Radio spectrum.

The Senate bill currently has six cosponsors. they include Senators Daniel Akala(D HI), Susan Collins (R ME), Larry Craig (R ID) Balance Lambert Lincoln (D AR), and Olympia Snowe (R ME. Senator Michael Crapo (R ID) introduced the bill in March. The House companion bill , HR. 783< introduced last year by Representative Michael Bilirakis (R FL-9th)currently has 147 cosponsors. A sample letter links to the address of your representatives and Senators may be found on the ARRL , web site at<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/hr783.html>

From QST1 5

South Africa and Australia adopt 5 WPM for full HF access

South Africa and Australia have joined a small but growing list of administrations that have adopted a 5 WPM code test requirement for full access to the HF bands. Sout Africa has anew class A3 ticket- with a distinctive ZT call sign

prefix-that provides "full access" privileges at up to 100 W output, plus anew entry level class B license, with more restricted privelages that aimed at school aged youth. The 12WPM Morse cde requirement remains in place for the class A "full license in South Africa. The Australian Communications Authority has agreed to merge the privileges of the current intermediate and unrestricted licenses, effectively lowering the code requirement to 5 WPM for full HF access. The change will take place just in time for the expected influx of visitors for the Olympics in Sidney. Under the plan., Australian Intermediate licensees will get thesame HF privileges as so-called "full licensees". The two license classes and their distinctive call signs blocks would remain however, as is would the 10WPM code requirement for the Unrestricted ticket. The general issue of Morse code licensing requirements is expected to be a topic for debate at the IARU Region 3 conference the WIA will host later this year. Discussion of the International Radio Regulations regarding the Morse code re requirement is not expected to come up prior to the World Radiocommunications Conference set for 2003.

From QST

Amateur Radio Survives Restructuring

Despite the dire predictions from some quarters the "big day"-- Saturday, April, 15, 2000--dawned with nary a "10-4", a "roger beep" or "echo box" to be heard on the Amateur Bands. During the first weekend of restructuring, fledgling Generals and Extras were out in force on the HF bands, trying out their upgraded privileges and proudly appending the required "interim AG" or "interim AE to each ID.

"I'm real new to the HF frequencies," conceded one Tennessee amateur April 15, as he non the less adroitly engaged in QSOs with several other hams on 40 SSB. The amateur had just upgraded from Tech Plus to Extra. Another operator in Maryland was typical of those out over the weekend exercise their new wings on SSB after making the leap from Technician to Extra." just this morning upgraded my ticket,"he said.

Amateur Radio has passed another milestone in its long history without incident. For the first time in more than 60 years, applicants seeking an Amateur Radio license with full HF privileges didn't need to take at least a 13 WPM code exam.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, was among those urging veteran hams to put out the welcome mat to all newcomers. "They will need guidance, not hostility and transferred anger from those unhappy with the new FCC license structure," he said in an open letter published in the division newsletter. The Hudson Loop. Fallon advised experienced hams to be generous with their help, to be tolerant of mistakes

and to be friendly and tactful when you offer suggestions for improvement. One "interim AGen." Anthony VanAmeyden, N8WJQ, told the ARRL, he was gratified to encounter "a gracious and patient effort" to help newcomers during the 4-meyer SSB net he monitored. Despite some of the doom and gloom about the new licenses entering the new HF bands. I was every pleased to be part of the ham community when I listened in and realized that all operators on the net patiently waited for the new licensees to receive their first contacts he said. Congratulations are in order for those fine examples of what Amateur Radio is all about.

Meanwhile the ARRL-VEC team didn't need a reminder that restructuring had stuck. It's been dealing with an increased influx of applications since January.

You're a little early. It's taking about a month. Assistant to the ARRL-VEC Manager Wayne Irwin, W1KI told a newly upgraded caller on April 17. The caller had tested March 22, but his new license grant hadn't yet shown up in the FCC database or in his mailbox. You upgraded yesterday? Irwin asked another caller. You're not going to see it for about three to four weeks.

The overwhelming volume of activity as a result of upgrade fever put things behind the dime at VECs. Although it hired on extra help, ARRL-VEC was struggling to keep up. The phones rang non stop with inquiries, and the e-mail runneth over. ARRL-VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ said on the Monday after restructuring became effective.

Continued page 4

Restructuring

During the April 15-16 weekend thousands of hams took advantage of strategically scheduled upgrade and paperwork processing VE sessions, including some held at the stroke of midnight, Jahnke said he'd gotten word of individual sessions with as many as 135 attendees, ARRL VEC alone registered nearly 250 separate sessions April 15. Georgia Section Manager Stanley Donahue, took part in a dual exam session held April 14 and 15 in conjunction with the fourth annual Southwestern VHF Society Conference near Atlanta. At 10PM. we gave a last gasp exam session under the old rules, Donahue said. At midnight, the VEs initiated the first Georgia exam session under the new rules. We were overwhelmed by the response, He said. One examinee even flew in from Belgium. The fact that this many amateurs showed up at midnight and waited almost until dawn for us to complete the process speaks volumes about the interest in our hobby in the wake of the license restructuring, Donahue said. Nearly 90 applicants turned out for the Utica Shelby Emergency Communications Association's attempt to be the first in the nation to offer amateur exams under the new rules. Testing began at the stroke of midnight during it's special VE session in Mt. Clements Michigan, said applicants started lining up outside as early as 7:30 PM. Elsewhere more than 100 applicants turned out in the wee hours of April 15 for Florida's first VE session under the new rules. By the time the sun had set on the first weekend of restructuring, seven

VE sessions the 10 county West Central Florida Section had processed upwards to 300 license upgrades. In Colorado, Jeff Ryan N0WPA, reported nearly 700 upgrades at seven ARRL-VEC testing sessions April 15.

A VE paperwork session April 15 at ARRL Headquarters processed 60 applicants. They felt there was some special prestige to be able to show they did it at ARRL HQ, said VE and ARRL staffer Dan Miller, K3UFpg.

Perhaps as a point of pride more than a few hams hustled in the weeks remaining before April 15 in order to upgrade under the old rules. One was ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, who upgraded to Extra. Another Don Wenger, WD8OTT also now interim AE, who said the league's code tapes did the trick for him after years of struggling with the code. He passed the 20 WPM code test on the very last night it was possible to do so.

From QST.

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The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Membership

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is based in Franklin, Indiana. Membership is open to all amateur radio operators and other interested Parties

Club meetings are conducted on the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Rd. in Franklin, In.

Membership dues are \$18.00 per year for full membership. Other types of memberships are available.

Amateur Radio Operator License testing is offered following the meetings during the months of March through November.

The club maintains an open repeater in the 2-meter band at 146.835 MHz. Each full member has access to the repeater and autopatch.

Membership dues payments and changes of address should be sent to the Club Treasurer at the address listed below.

Newsletter

The Spark GAP is the monthly club newsletter.

articles and information that would be of interest to the club members are welcome. Information may be submitted by E-mail or by mailing to the club address listed below.

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Club meeting Sat May 20 at EOC

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